

**Rising Sun City Council
City/County Joint Meeting
July 30, 2008
6:00 P.M.
Heritage Hall**

Call to order/Pledge

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Marksberry. A quorum was determined by Clerk Gipson with City Council, County Council and County Commissioners represented. See Attached sign in sheet. Exhibit A.

Park Task Force Update

April Hautman and Shane Koons updated the group on activities at the New Fairgrounds Park. The plan was to begin most of the work after the 2008 4-H fair. The group is currently talking with The Schneider Group regarding final billing and termination of the contract. The task force believes the work can be handled in house with Mike Northcutt and Alonzo Bowling overseeing this project. They reported the Exhibit Hall is down and the concession building will be demolished next. The County Highway Department has been doing a lot of the demolition work. Shane reported they have been working on DNR regulations and will be requesting quotes for buildings soon. It was also stated a grant was received for \$50,000 from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation for the Show Arena with another application/request submitted for a new Exhibit Hall in the amount of \$100,000.

Denver Siekman Environmental Park—Janie Eldridge

Janie Eldridge presented information of what the group has accomplished, volunteer hours and potential projects. See Attached Exhibit B. Eldridge stated they are currently hosting Project Shine, as well as, groups from the Church of Christ Day Care. She reported the group has been working on a strategic plan. They will have their annual community picnic on August 22nd. The “Beast” run had 97 participants starting with 93 finishing.

911 Communications—Joe Teke

911 Communications Director, Joe Teke informed all present he had talked with Ed Sullivan and RSRF will not fund the \$40,000 originally given towards the computer upgrade project. He is reviewing his budget and working with Ed and hopes to get \$15-\$20,000 from RSRF towards this project. Teke will keep us posted on the outcome.

Economic Development Workshop Session

Tammy Elbright passed out information regarding a workshop being presented August 5th from 6-8pm at the Senior Community Building. The topics of discussion are tax abatements, changes to TIF Zones, and business attraction strategies. The workshop is presented by Dick Huepel and Heather Powell from Ball State University Center for Economic Development.

Corps of Engineers—Hotel Expansion—Bill Marksberry

Marksberry reported he will be attending hearings for the permitting process for the Grand Victoria Hotel expansion next week.

New Fairgrounds Park Finances—Clerk Treasurer Rae Gipson

Clerk Gipson reported she is planning to do an additional appropriation to create a “New Fairgrounds Park” fund to pay expenses for the joint project. It was discussed that the fund would include revenues from the City and County in the amount of \$350,000 each and \$70,000 from the Park Board. There was discussion that the County could cut a check each quarter for \$87,500 to be deposited in this fund.

Local Option Income Tax—Jeff Peters, City Consultant

Jeff Peters presented information regarding Local Option Income Tax (LOIT). See Attached Exhibit C. Peters explained originally when adopting LOIT a community had to adopt all 3 sections of the code. Now only 1 of 2 property relief sections has to be adopted. Dill Dorrell stated the County has spent a lot of time researching this and do not believe it is feasible at this time. He further stated only 10 counties have adopted LOIT, and the county will review the option on an annual basis. Clerk Gipson informed the group she had discussed the option with a few county representatives regarding the public safety side of this and had never received any final response. Peters was in Rising Sun working so she had requested him present this information as a possible option to funding the public safety budgets.

Animal Control—Todd Walton/Jeff Cosby

Todd Walton requested Dog Warden, Jeff Cosby present information to the group. Cosby stated he has been in charge of animal control for a little over 11 weeks. He has booked 101 calls. Forty Three percent of the calls were in the city, 5 neglect, 5 cruelty and 2 pit bull calls. The facility uses 18-25 pounds of food and 4-5 gallons of bleach or disinfectant each day. He has put down 12 animals to date—had 6 donations—9 animal re-claims and \$630 in receipts. He has several high school students that volunteer community service and plans to get on the list for the Ohio County Community Foundation so these volunteers can book their hours. Cosby stated he has also done work on the sewer system at the facility. Commissioner Walton stated this position should be made full

time. There was some discussion regarding using the City committed funds that have been used for spay and neuter grants to help fund this full time position. Grants could be applied for through the Community and Regional Foundations for spay and neuter funds. Mayor Marksberry stated this was a county position. The City had discussed this before and felt it was not their place to make decisions regarding the salary or status of a county position. City Clerk Treasurer Gipson stated it might be possible to use the committed funds for supplies/operations and get grants to fund the spay and neuter project. Commissioner Walton will continue to research options and report back to the group.

Tammy Elbright informed everyone Ohio County was co-hosting the Indiana Association of Counties annual conference at Belterra Casino September 22-25th. She invited all to attend.

Adjournment

The next meeting was tentatively set for October 29th at 6:00pm at Heritage Hall. With no further business; a motion was made by Councilman Padgett to adjourn, 2nd by Councilman Powell; meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Attest:

Rae Baker Gipson,
Clerk Treasurer

William A. Marksberry,
Mayor